

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /074 W
----- 074754

R 171816Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9035

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0123

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ML, UV

SUBJECT: MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF LOME COMMUNIQUE (LOME 2987), VOLTAN PRESS AND RADIO HAVE CEASED ATTACKING MALIAN GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE.

2. WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT CERTAIN ARMY OFFICERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN HOLDING MEETINGS WITH YOUTH AND LABOR LEADERS, TRADITIONAL CHIEFS, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZED GROUPS, DURING WHICH PARTICIPANTS WERE URGED IN INFLAMMAYORY LANGUAGE TO MAINTAIN THEIR VIGILANCE AGAINST MALI.

3. MAJOR FELIX TIENTARABOUM, MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE, IS REPORTED TO BE PARTICULARLY AGGRESSIVE AT SUCH MEETINGS WHERE HE ALLEGEDLY HAS ON
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SEVERAL OCCASIONS CAST DOUBTS ON POSSIBILITY OF MEDIA-

TION AND HAS ADVOCATED A MILITARY SOLUTION TO BORDER
DISPUTE AS SOON AS VOLTAN ARMY IS UP TO THE TASK.

4. AT 39, TIENTARABOUM IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED THE
LEADER OF THE "YOUNG TURKS" IN VOLTAN ARMY. HE IS
ARTICULATE, FORCEFUL AND AMBITIOUS. I AM INCLINED
TO AGREE WITH SEVERAL OF MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES
THAT, IF PRESIDENT LAMIZANA FAILS TO OBTAIN SATISFAC-
TION FOR UPPER VOLTA THROUGH DIPLOMATIC MEANS,
TIENTARABOUM WILL BE THE MAN TO WATCH.
GRAHAM

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NNN

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To: STATE
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